



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

“End of Summer” 2015 Newsletter

Upcoming Meetings:

September 11: An introduction to Arduino processors and what they can do

Ham Radio News:

HILLTOP OPERATING EVENT IS SEPTEMBER 26

From the Hilltop Operating Event Coordinators, Bob Burns, W9BU, and Tony Stokes, KU9V:

The 2015 Indianapolis Radio Club Hilltop Operating Event is coming up on September 26, 2015.

The Hilltop is an opportunity for amateur radio operators, primarily in Central Indiana, to contact as many stations as possible from hilltop locations using temporary stations. It's a mini-Field Day with an emphasis on Central Indiana.

The Hilltop rules have been constructed to make it fair for small and large stations alike. Whether you have the radios and antennas to compete on all the available bands and modes or just want to limit your operation to a few bands/modes, you will find yourself competing with similar stations. And, the bands and modes have been chosen so that all it takes to participate is a Technician-class license.

But, wait, Indiana doesn't have hills. Well, yes, Indiana doesn't have hills like Colorado, but there are several hilltop locations within an hour or two drive from Indianapolis that you could operate from. In past Hilltop events, stations have operated from Weed Patch Hill in Brown County State Park, Crown Hill in Crown Hill Cemetery, and that big pile of rock you can see from I-465 on the south side of Indianapolis. Though, keep in mind

that if you are operating from private property, you should get permission from the property owner.

You can find the complete rules on the Indianapolis Radio Club web site at:

<http://indyradioclub.org/irchilltop.html>

Don't forget that you need to register your hilltop station before the event. Registration instructions are in the rules.

We hope to hear you on the air during the event!

INDIANA REPEATER COUNCIL ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The July 11, 2015 Indiana Repeater Council meeting was held at the Indianapolis Hamfest. The meeting was chaired by Dan Dahms N9WNH with Melanie Dahms W9NNH as Secretary/Treasurer.

Elections were held for 2016. Bob Burns W9BU was elected Chairman, Steve Jones N9KYB (now W9SMJ) was elected Vice Chairman, and Mark Musick WB9CIF was elected Secretary/Treasurer. The electees will assume their offices at the November 2015 meeting at the Fort Wayne Hamfest. Chairman Elect Bob Burns thanked Dan, Melanie, and posthumously thanked Charlie for their service to the IRC.

VANITY CALLSIGN FEE IS A THING OF THE PAST

According to the best-available information from FCC sources, the first day that applicants will be able to file a vanity application without having to pay a fee is today, Thursday, September 3. (However, you won't actually be able to apply for that vanity callsign until the ULS comes back on line. See below.) In deciding earlier this year to drop the regulatory fee components for Amateur Radio vanity call signs and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) applications, the FCC said it was doing so to save money and personnel resources. The Commission asserted that it costs more of both to process the regulatory fees and issue refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment.

"Our costs have increased over time, and now that the costs exceed the amount of the regulatory fee, the increased relative administrative cost supports eliminating this regulatory fee category," the FCC said in its Report and Order, which appeared on July 21 in The Federal Register. "Once [it's] eliminated, these licensees will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments."

FCC ULS DOWN FOR MAINTENANCE SEPTEMBER 2 - 8

The FCC Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)) and other FCC website public applications are down for maintenance and will be unavailable from 2200 UTC on Wednesday, September 2, until 1200 UTC on Tuesday, September 8. The outage also will affect the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) and the Electronic Document Management System (EDOCS). During the ULS outage, it will not be possible to file any Amateur Radio applications, including examination session documents, or conduct any license or application searches.

While the requirement to pay a regulatory fee for Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications will end on September 3, prospective vanity applicants now will have to wait until after 1200 UTC on September 8 to file an application for an available call sign. The FCC has told ARRL that the approximately 18-day vanity call sign waiting period will remain in place "for now."

Point your browser to <http://www.arrl.org/news/a-reminder-fcc-universal-licensing-system-down-for-maintenance-september-2-8> for more details.

AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE CO-FOUNDER, EDITOR BILL PASTERNAK, WA6ITF (SK)

A well-known voice in the Amateur Radio news media has gone silent. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, of Santa Clarita, California, died June 11 following a period of ill health. He was 73. Pasternak was co-founder (with Jim Hendershot, WA6VQP) of Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) (formerly The Westlink Report) ham radio news webcast and a frequent presence at Amateur Radio conventions. Pasternak served as Newsline's managing editor and occasional newscaster for the program. Even while hospitalized earlier this year, he kept his ear to the ground for news from the Amateur Radio community, so he could pass it along to those who had taken over Newsline during his illness - discovered after he broke two ribs in a fall.

He was the only person ever chosen to receive the Dayton Hamvention Special Achievement Award (1981) and Radio Amateur of the Year Award (1989). In 1995, the League presented him with an ARRL National Certificate of Merit in recognition of his contributions to the "furtherance of the goals of the Amateur Radio Service."

Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Sharon, KD6EPW

ROCKWELL COLLINS TO END MECHANICAL FILTER PRODUCTION

As more and more communications equipment designs have adopted digital signal processing techniques, [Rockwell Collins](#) has announced that it will stop manufacturing its renowned mechanical filters. It did not provide a specific date.

“Over the past several years, we have seen a dramatic reduction in demand for narrowband analog filters,” the company [said](#) on its website. “Due to this and other economic reasons, [Rockwell Collins] Filter Products will be discontinuing its mechanical filter products in the near future.”

More information can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/news/rockwell-collins-to-end-mechanical-filter-production>

INDIANAPOLIS RADIO CLUB VE TESTING SCHEDULE

(All sessions start at 12:00 noon)

September 12, 2015 - Integrated Public Safety Commission, 8468 E 21st, Indianapolis, IN

Contact: Rhonda S. Curtis, (317) 363-7457, Email: ws9h@arrl.net

October 10, 2015 - Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd., Indianapolis, IN

Contact: James K. Rinehart, (317) 495-1933, Email: k9ru@arrl.net

November 14, 2015 - Integrated Public Safety Commission, 8468 E 21st, Indianapolis, IN

Contact: Rhonda S. Curtis, (317) 363-7457, Email: ws9h@arrl.net

December 12, 2015 - Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd., Indianapolis, IN

Contact: James K. Rinehart, (317) 495-1933, Email: k9ru@arrl.net

HAM RADIO GEAR FOR SALE

I have a new 3 500 tube that I would like to sell. I paid \$190 for it and I would be pleased to receive \$115 for it. I also have an unused MFJ Artificial Ground. I would like to receive around \$80 for the unit. (Prices reduced). Thanks, David Wilhelmus, WA9OUX

Contact : wilhelmusdavid@gmail.com

Phone: 317 926-2358

MORE HAM RADIO GEAR FOR SALE

In order to make room on the shelf, I am selling my Yaesu FT-897D, along with some accessories. I am the original owner of the rig, having purchased it new in July of 2005. At that time, I purchased the radio and the "built in" FP-30B power supply (no noise). Later, in October of 2005, I ordered the LDG AT-897 tuner (not the current "plus" model). Finally, in November of 2005, I installed a SSB filter in the rig. It also comes with the stock hand microphone and manual. As a "bonus", I will throw in the carrying case I have the radio in currently. It's a "road case" attaché that I used to use for a portable DAT (Digital Audio Tape) recorder, that was repurposed for the radio and it's accessories.

My total investment in all this is just under \$1400. I am willing to sell the complete package for \$800 or best offer (Price reduced).

Ken Bandy, KJ9B

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(317) 456-4353

ARRL SUPPORTS MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY FOR NEW 2200 AND 630 METER BANDS

The ARRL has told the FCC that Amateur Radio operation in the new 135.7-137.8 kHz (2200 meters) and 472-479 kHz (630 meters) bands should be as unfettered as possible from a regulatory standpoint.

The League spelled out its case August 31 in detailed comments that argue in favor of flexible FCC Part 97 regulations in light of the exceptionally low interference potential to unlicensed power line carrier (PLC) systems that utilities use to manage the power grid.

In its April Report and Order, Order, and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (R&O/NPRM) in ET Docket 15-99, the FCC had raised several questions regarding how Amateur Radio and PLC systems might coexist.

The ARRL said, in its view, there is little to no evidence that Amateur Radio operation would be incompatible on the LF spectrum, where the great majority of PLC systems are deployed, and that few, if any, PLCs operate in the MF band.

For more information, point your browser to <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-supports-maximum-flexibility-for-amateur-use-of-new-2200-and-630-meter-bands>

FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at <http://www.indyradioclub.org/rqstnewsletter.htm>.

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kj9b@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the August, 1960 *Amachewer*:

Guess the Home Brew Club had generator trouble but they were prepared and proceeded to hook up their spare generator—only trouble was it happened to be a D.C. generator—POW--did they start looking for the fuses.....

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- September 11-12: 63rd annual W9DXCC DX Convention and Banquet More info at <http://w9dxcc.com/>
- September 19: Greenfield Hamfest at First Church of God, Greenfield. Go to <http://www.w9atg.org/?q=node/2> for more info.
- October 3: Hoosier Hills Hamfest More info at <http://www.w9qyq.org/hamfest/>
- November 14: Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo More information at <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com/>

2015 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – EMAIL n9kt@arrl.net
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - ..EMAIL dmiller@ivytech.edu
- Secretary: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - ..EMAIL kj9b@arrl.net
- Treasurer: Rhonda Curtis, WS9H - ..EMAIL ws9h.indy@gmail.com
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